

urging ourselves to work for permanent tax relief for the American public.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY], the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that American families deserve tax relief, and I think it is very important to have such a resolution as this on this particular day.

I want to congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. PITTS], for his efforts in bringing this resolution to the floor and highlighting an issue that is very near and dear to my heart.

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And we are very fortunate to have a man like the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. JOE PITTS, here in this House coming from a long history in Pennsylvania of doing what is right for working families in Pennsylvania. Now he is working on what to do right for American families.

Today working families across this Nation are getting ready to pay their taxes after spending hours upon hours figuring out our complicated tax system. Many do this chore with the knowledge that taxes are an inevitable part of the process, like death.

While taxes may be a necessary evil, the current tax system is a national disgrace. In fact, the Government takes more than 50 percent of the average working family's paycheck through costs of taxes and regulations.

That means that 50 cents out of every hard-earned dollar that the American family makes today goes to the Government. No wonder it takes one parent to work for the Government while the other parent works for the family.

It also means that a single parent must work twice as hard to support the Government and his or her children. Now, when mothers and fathers work more to support their government than they do to support their children, I say that this system has gone awry.

We want to change the system to allow families to keep more of what they earn to support their children. Now, some say that it takes a village to raise a child, while I say that it takes a village idiot to raise taxes on working families.

Mr. Speaker, we need to cut taxes for working families but we are running into opposition, and he resides at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. President Clinton talks a good game but his actions prove that he is against family tax relief.

Last year he introduced other legislation that would have given working families immediate tax relief; and this year he wants to increase taxes, increase taxes by \$80 billion to pay for more wasteful Washington spending. Are families not taxed enough already?

So I just urge my colleagues to join with me and send the President a message, the American family deserves a tax break.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 109.

The question was taken.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

REMOVAL OF NAME AND ADDITION OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1200

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Oklahoma, Mr. J.C. WATTS, as a cosponsor of H.R. 1200 and to add the name of the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. MEL WATT, to the bill. I inadvertently got the wrong name.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

EXTENDING TERM OF APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT ASSESSMENT COMMISSION AND PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REVIEW COMMISSION

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1001, to extend the term of appointment of certain members of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission and the Physician Payment Review Commission.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1001

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF TERM OF APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT ASSESSMENT COMMISSION AND THE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REVIEW COMMISSION.

In the case of an individual who is appointed as a member of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission or of the Physician Payment Review Commission and whose term of appointment would otherwise expire during 1997, such terms of appointment is hereby extended to expire as of May 1, 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] and the gentleman from California [Mr. STARK] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS].

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1001. It is the bill to extend the term of appointment of certain members of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission and the Physician Payment Review Commission. This is a non-controversial bill; nevertheless, it is a necessary one because it is needed to ensure the continued operation of these two commissions.

H.R. 1001 was introduced by myself and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the Committee on Commerce, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS]. The bill was reported by both the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee and the full Committee on Ways and Means by a voice vote without amendment.

Under current law the appointment of, we call it the PROPAC and PHYSPRC, the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission and the Physician Payment Review Commission, membership is made by the Director of the Office of Technology Assessment.

However, because Congress has closed the OTA, there is no one to make these appointments. This bill would extend the members' terms which expire this year. It will provide the committees of jurisdiction time to consider the future structure of the two commissions in order to develop legislation that would first, reauthorize their activities, and second, put in place a structure for determining a membership appointment.

Mr. Speaker, this measure received, as I said, the unanimous support of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment and the full committee. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this noncontroversial but much-needed piece of legislation.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California has described the bill well and accurately. There is no controversy, or, that I know of, any opposition to it. It is supported on our side. I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1001.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.